New Zealand than went there; and those who went could rarely be persuaded to endure the absence of the sounds and anonymous human companionship which had become necessary to them.

Like a magnet, cities attracted to themselves individuals, separate particles of life which had no other cohesion. The Godless must stay together; alone, their condition is unbearable—solitary ego in its nest of decaying flesh, counting the hours as they pass. Fear coagulates them, and only a greater fear will scatter them again; fear of sudden destruction rained from the skies, this sending them scampering in every direction, carrying what belongings they may, now intent only on leaving behind them what had formerly drawn them together. The prospect of war in September 1938 proved more efficacious than prophecies of wrath to come in evacuating the City of Destruction: and when war actually came, millions were evacuated to rural areas, the towns they, mostly gratefully, left behind them, darkened, cinema-less, deserted, sand-bagged, and expecting the siren's shrill call.

If agriculture languished, on by-pass roads out of London new factories, frail and hygienic, made their appearance; building societies and insurance companies accumulated impressive re-serves, bank-directors were able to announce a gratifying increase in the amount of money entrusted to them, and the spread of instalment-buying gave an impetus to retail trade. Mr. J. Gibson Garvie, managing director of the United Dominions Trust, went so far as to express the hope that 'the principle of instalments buying would eventually prove the spear-head of

an advance to a fuller civilisation.' If his expectations have not been wholly realised, the spearhead has continued to thrust energetically, enabling many to ^acquire radio-sets, bicycles, dentures, dress-suits, dictionaries, which they would otherwise have lacked. A trifling weekly payment seemed a small undertaking in return, for furniture to set up house for the first time; but as the weeks passed, and bliss, as it must, evaporated, the payments became more onerous, like a soldier's pack on a route-march. A spell